

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 564  
By Hagood

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the Reverend J. Bazzel Mull on his induction into the Southern Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy individual is Reverend J. Bazzel Mull of Knoxville, who, on May 13, 2003, was inducted into the Southern Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Mull's preaching and singing ministry has been broadcast for many years on television and radio stations throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, though blind since infancy, Reverend Mull began his singing career as a child, performing with his father's musical troupe, the Valdes Sacred Band; and

WHEREAS, in 1939, in Gastonia, North Carolina, Reverend J. Bazzel Mull embarked upon his broadcasting career, and later that year, he moved to Knoxville and appeared regularly on WROL for several years; and

WHEREAS, just three years later, in 1942, Reverend Mull began promoting gospel concerts as he brought the Blackwood Brothers to Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1950s, Reverend J. Bazzel Mull left WROL and moved to WIVK in Knoxville; while his program enjoyed extraordinary success with this station, he chose to discontinue his broadcasts in the course of the heated liquor-by-the-drink referendum controversy; and

WHEREAS, by this point, however, Reverend Mull had already reached out to a new audience through the newly popular television media; in the mid-1950s, Reverend J. Bazzel Mull signed on with WBIR-TV and began hosting his singing convention every Sunday morning; now aired on WVLT-TV, the Reverend's singing convention is the longest-running local television program in America; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, Reverend Mull purchased a radio station of his own, and in March of that year, WJBZ-FM Praise 96.3 signed on with its trademark 24-hour Southern Gospel format; and

WHEREAS, Reverend J. Bazzel Mull is most grateful to share both love and companionship with his wife of 60 years, Elizabeth; known as "Lady Mull", she faithfully sits by his side, helping him host his program and reading the Scripture for him; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Mull epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud the Reverend J. Bazzel Mull for his dedication to the well-being of the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED  
THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE  
CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate the Reverend J. Bazzel Mull on his induction into  
the Southern Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable  
character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction  
and extending to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared  
for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.